

March 29, 1999

The Honourable Michael D. Harris  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park, Ontario  
M7A 1A2

Dear Premier Harris:

**Re: Jamaican Canadian Association Community Centre Renovation Project**

I am writing to you on behalf of the Jamaican Canadian Association, the largest and longest serving organization in the African Canadian community in Ontario.

We recently purchased a 24,000 square foot building in the north west area of the City of Toronto. In February we started renovations to transform this building into a fully equipped community centre. Among the many services and programs will be a retraining program for older unemployed workers (45 years and older) academic upgrading classes, recreation facilities and a computer training centre.

The total cost of the renovations will be \$886,000. To date our members have raised \$300,000 plus another \$110,00 in pledges. Our fundraising activities are continuing and we have an arrangement with the Royal Bank of Canada to finance the difference between what we have raised and the \$886,000.

We share your philosophy that the community has to do its part and we believe we have demonstrated that. Premier, we need financial help from your government to enable us to complete the renovations. Many of the services and programs which we will be offering will directly benefit many unemployed African Canadians especially those in North York, thus reducing the burden on government services. We wrote to the Honourable Al Paladini requesting a meeting but we have not received a response.

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